

OPINION 1796***Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879 (Insecta, Coleoptera): conserved****Ruling**

(1) Under the plenary powers the name *Plateocolymbus* Gistel, 1857 is hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy.

(2) The name *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879 (gender: masculine), type species by subsequent designation by Guignot (1946) *Agabus decemnotatus* Aubé, 1838, is hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology.

(3) The name *decemnotatus* Aubé, 1838, as published in the binomen *Agabus decemnotatus* (specific name of the type species of *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879), is hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

(4) The name *Plateocolymbus* Gistel, 1857, as suppressed in (1) above, is hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology.

History of Case 2841

An application for the conservation of the generic name *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879 was received from Dr Anders N. Nilsson (*University of Umeå, Umeå, Sweden*) on 23 January 1992. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 50: 212–214 (September 1993). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Support for the application was received from Dr Hans Silfverberg (*Universitetets Zoologiska Museum, Helsinki, Finland*).

It was noted on the voting paper that paras. 1 and 2 of the application and cited references (para. 4) indicated a wide distribution for *Platynectes* species. Dr Nilsson had noted (in litt., January and February, 1992) that no author who had seen material of *P. kashmiranus* had raised any doubts that it correctly belonged in *Platynectes*.

Decision of the Commission

On 1 September 1994 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 50: 213. At the close of the voting period on 1 December 1994 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 17: Bayer, Bock, Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Hahn, Heppell, Macpherson, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Savage, Schuster, Starobogatov, Štys, Trjapitzin, Willink

Negative votes — 7: Bouchet, Holthuis, Kabata, Lehtinen, Mahnert, Martins de Souza and Thompson.

No votes were received from Halvorsen and Uéno.

Dupuis, Kraus and Ride were on leave of absence.

Bouchet commented: '*Platynectes* is clearly not a name frequently used, even in the taxonomic literature. I see no convincing reason to depart from priority. Colleagues in entomology tell me that in 1967 another 'forgotten' Gistel name was reinstated without causing chaos. I am convinced that the few taxonomists working in Dystiscidae would adjust rapidly to using *Plateocolymbus*'. Holthuis commented: '*Colymbetes lineatus* Redtenbacher, 1844 (= *Platynectes kashmiranus* Balfour-Browne, 1944) is a species incerta. Consequently the synonymy of *Platynectes*

Régimbart, 1879 with *Plateocolymbus* Gistel, 1857 is uncertain and it therefore seems unjustified to suppress the older name. In my view the only course that the Commission could follow would be to give *Platynectes* precedence over *Plateocolymbus* without suppressing the latter'. Mahnert commented: 'Nine papers in the last 23 years treating this genus do not indicate a serious reason why a change of name would cause undue confusion and create instability. Priority should be respected in this case'.

Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists and an Official Index by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

decemnotatus, *Agabus*, Aubé, 1838, *Species général des Hydrocanthares et Gyriniens, par le docteur Ch. Aubé; pour faire suite au species général des Coléoptères de la collection de M. le Comte Dejean*, vol. 6, p. 319.

Platynectes Régimbart, 1879, *Annales de la Société Entomologique de France*, (5)8: 462.

Plateocolymbus Gistel, 1857, *Vacuna oder die Geheimnisse aus der organischen und leblosen Welt*, vol. 2, p. 606.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Agabus decemnotatus* Aubé, 1838 as the type species of the nominal genus *Platynectes* Régimbart, 1879:

Guignot, F. 1946. *Revue Française d'Entomologie*, 13: 117.